

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
May 8, 2014

Present: Knox, Roberts, Nora Stevens (guest), Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by chair Knox.

The acceptance of the March 13, 2014 meeting minutes were deferred for a future meeting.

Stevens, a volunteer for almost 20 years, spoke about the growth of the swap shop. To get a better idea of how much material is circulated back into the community, incoming swap shop donations are being weighed for the next month. To improve the function of the swap shop, Stevens suggested better lighting, built-in shelves, and staffing by a town employee. The Town Council will be visiting the transfer station on June 23, 2014 at 6 pm. SWAC members are invited to attend.

Walton reported that the split body trash and recycling truck began servicing single-family residents the week of April 14, 2014. The recycling rates for the first and second week of this change were 37% and 40% respectively. The recycling rate for the month of April was 37%. The number of households that are using an additional recycle container is up to 12. It was suggested that at the end of August staff re-evaluate charging for an additional recycle container. If the number is still nominal, and the households needing the additional container are not home businesses, Willimantic Waste Paper should be asked to waive the charge for additional recycle containers.

Willimantic Waste Paper was the only company that bid on the multi-family residential contract. The bid prices were similar to their current rates. For extra collections, their prices have almost doubled. Staff will prepare recommended multi-family rates for members' review at the next SWAC meeting.

Knox stated that she has not begun using the sample Green Cone digester at her house because of the wet weather, and it may prove to be difficult to install because of the stony soil. Walton will check with Ames to see if she has begun testing the Garden Gourmet composter. Walton stated that she has done some measurements of the transfer station leaf pile to come up with an estimate of food scraps that could be managed properly in the compost pile. She has spoken to Big Y, who has expressed interest in composting their food scraps.

The committee discussed ways to encourage greater participation in Rid Litter Day next year. Ideas included recruiting groups to work in neighborhoods, using lawn signs at the municipal buildings, and on Rid Litter Day creating a mound of bagged litter on the lawn of the Town Hall, making it news worthy for the local papers. At the January 2015 meeting, the committee will begin working on recruiting groups.

Walton reported that she has received responses from a handful of people who are willing to help fix items at a "repair clinic." The Access Agency, which hosts a time bank, has also offered to work together on this project. Walton checked into the question of liability that was raised at the last meeting. The Repair Café could potentially be held in a municipal building, if another organization, such as the Access Agency, sponsors the Repair Cafés. Walton is waiting to hear back from the Access Agency as to whether they will sponsor it.

The Festival on the Green has been renamed "Celebrate Mansfield Festival". Since the Festival, scheduled for September 21, 2014, will be on the town square, Walton suggested that a letter from the Solid Waste Advisory

Committee be sent to businesses along the square, asking that they use compostable items for that particular day. Walton will bring a draft of the letter to the next meeting.

Walton reported that UConn Give and Go is currently underway. Knox volunteered to help sort items in the Arena over the weekend. Walton has begun working with the IT department to work on paper reduction strategies for the municipal buildings.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator